

Appl. No. 09/978,428 (Docket No. B0048-US02)
Resp. dated 02/13/2004
Reply to OA of Nov. 14, 2003

Claims

1. (Previously Amended) A method of separating cells in a centrifuge comprising:
 - providing a cell suspension in a processing bag;
 - separating the cell suspension in the processing bag into fractions by centrifugation in a centrifuge, at least one such fraction being enriched with specific cells;
 - transferring one of said fractions to a storage bag via an outlet tube;
 - adapting said outlet tube in a position having a radially inwardly directed flow and having a centrifuge valve associated therewith;
 - whereby said processing bag, said storage bag, said outlet tube and said centrifuge valve are all disposed in the rotating part of the centrifuge during centrifugation; and
 - whereby said step of transferring said fraction through said outlet tube occurs upon activation of said centrifuge valve into open position during centrifugation.
2. (Previously Cancelled)
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cell suspension includes a buffy coat and said enriched fraction is a light-weight fraction enriched with platelets.
4. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1 in which the transferring of said fraction via said outlet tube includes diverting said radial flow into a peripheral flow via a cell trap having an enlarged section for maintaining specific cells.
5. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1 in which the transferring of said fraction through said outlet tube includes transferring through at least one enlargement formed in said outlet tube for separation of more dense cells.
6. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1 in which the transferring of said fraction via said outlet tube includes flowing through said valve and through a radially positioned portion of said outlet tube having a radially outwardly directed flow.

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7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cells are platelets or stem cells.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cells are red blood cells.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is a manually activatable clamp.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is a magnetically activatable valve.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is an electromagnetically activatable valve.

12-20 (Previously Cancelled).